

The larvae of *lariciata* feed on the needles of Larch (*Larix europaea*) and, although it is not regarded as a serious forest pest, the possibility of two broods in favourable years may be of interest to horticulturalists as well as entomologists.

Our thanks to Mr. D. Rogers, Mr. M. Leggett and Mr. D. Warner for operating the traps at Yarnier Wood, Aberystwyth and Brodick respectively and to Mr. I. J. L. Tillotson, the identifier for Aberystwyth and Brodick, for his co-operation in forwarding the *Eupithecias* to myself. ADRIAN M. RILEY, Entomology Department Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

**MORE WINTER ACTIVITY** — Further to my previous note on this subject (*Ent. Rec.* 90: 115) — incidentally the word "final" was omitted from the end of the first line — I can report a similar occurrence.

Whilst picking brussel sprouts for dinner on Christmas morning 1985, I noticed a number of final instar larvae of *Pieris brassicae* among the leaves in the "head" of the plant. On January 8th, 1986 my four year old son proudly showed me a *brassicae* pupa which he had just spotted on the window of our conservatory. The distance from the sprout plants to the pupation site is roughly 5 metres and as the windows are regularly cleaned, the larva must have made the journey and pupated during a spell of very cold weather. The BBC weather forecast predicted temperatures in the area of as low as -12C and certainly the temperature barely rose above freezing even during the day time for at least ten days before pupation.

Although I tend to regard such activity in nature during hard winters to be unusual, my previous note solicited no comment from lepidopterists — perhaps these winter time observations are not so unusual after all? — J. COOTER, 222 Whittern Way, Hereford, HR1 1QP.

**COPPER UNDERWINGS IN YORKSHIRE: AMPHIPYRA PYRAMIDEA L. AND A. BERBERA SSP. SVENSSONI FLETCH.** — Between August 20-28, 1985, I stayed in Todmorden (SD9324) West Yorkshire at Todmorden Edge South overlooking Centre Vale Park and Buckley Wood in the valley of the R. Calder. On Wednesday evening Aug 21 we returned to the Guest House a little after 10 pm. Outside the porch door was an electric light round which a moth was fluttering. I made a grab but missed it and thinking it might have settled in the shade I looked down and saw a moth sitting on the wall with its wings arched over its back. I took it in my hand and soon realised its wings were limp so that it must recently have emerged and could not have been the same I had seen fluttering round the lamp. Moreover it was a copper underwing, a species I had never met or heard of in Todmorden where I lived and collected as a boy in the 1920-40 period.